A perfect Narrative of the particular service performed by *Thomas Wright* Fire-master, with a Mortar piece of [illegible]

[illegible] Right Honorable,

[illegible] humbly conceive it is not unknown unto you in some measure, what service I have performed, (I speak it to the glory of God, whose good hand of Providence was over me,) in the Isle of Jersey, being called thereunto by Your Honors Authority, as appears by this ensuing Order signed by Mr. *Rowe*.

Mr. *Thomas Wright* Gunner in the Tower is hereby desired to bespeak these particulars under-written, and ready Money shall be paid for them upon delivery.

Whitehall, July 13. 1651. *William Rowe.*

[illegible] Mallets, Poure Iron Rammers, 600 Powder-Cases, Two large Chests, Two large Quadrants: Two plain Tables, Two Chissels, Two pair of Callipers.

W. R.

Hereupon I had a Commission from Colonel *Heane* Commander in cheif for that Expedition, as followeth.

BY vertue of the Power and Authority to me derived from the Parliament of *England*, and my Lord Generall *Cromwell*, I do hereby authorise you *Thomas Wright* as Fire-master, to Command one of the Great Morter peeces, and all such persons as are appointed for your assistance, with all those provisions and materials thereunto belonging; the which are appointed for the service of the Isle of *Jersey*. Which assistance, provisions and materials you are to Command, and order for the Reducing of the said place, according to your best Judgement and discretion; And all persons whatsoever appointed as your assistance for the service aforesaid, are hereby required to obey you as their Commander: and you are

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to observe such Orders and directions for the carrying on of the said Service, as you shall from time to time receive from me. Given under my hand this 24th day of *September*. 1651.

To Mr. *Thomas Wright*
Fire-master. *Jac Heane.*

May it please Your Honors, after this service was ended, upon my return into *England* I could not but look upon some various reports which have been made concerning that great and weighty Imployment of reducing the Isle of *Jersey*, and *Elizabeth Castle*, unto the obedience of the Parliament, in which service, by Your Honors Command, (not to derogate from the honour and worth of any Officer) I was under God in my place instrumentall; and therefore I humbly conceive in further discharge of my duty, I am bound to represent a perfect Narrative of such particulars wherein my self was an Actor, together with some other things which either concern my self, or that Island.

After we got footing in the Island, and Sir *George Caretret* and those of his party were forced to retreat into *Elizabeth Castle* (a place which unto them seemed impregnable) it was our chiefest care to reduce the said Castle, without which we could not settle the Isle in a condition of peace and security, or lessen the charge of the State, in maintaining of men and other necessaries for that service. And when I came to view the distance betwixt the place where I was to raise my battery, and the Castle; I found it to be seven eights of a mile, or 924 paces Geometricall, five foot to a pace, which was so great a length, that I humbly conceive there hath not been any instance in former actions, of execution done so far by a Morter peece.

Nevertheless upon Monday the fifteenth of November last, I planted my *Morter*-peece upon the Battery, and levell'd my shoot at Sir *George Caretrets* Lodgings which were on the farthest part of the Castle: and I proffered to lay a wager of ten pounds with Captain *Dover*, that my first shot should strike the Castle, or fly over, and not fall short: And when I was commanded to play my Granado, I gave fire my self, and through Gods providence it did strike one side of the great Tower, where the Granado brake, to the exceeding terror and amazement of the Enemie, and gave all on our side good grounds of encouragement, and assurance that the work would shortly be effected.

Whereupon I proceeded to make a second shot with the same proportion of powder and degree of elevation, which proved also a very fair shot upon the same Line as the other fell; and the Granado brake verie kindly, though it fell shorter then the first, for the distance was very great, and the Carriage of my Gun but weak, and not able to perform that violence of execution which was necessarily required. Yet I proceeded to make a third shot upon the same Line, and having altred my degrees of elevation, and my proportion of powder to a much larger length then the last, I did my self give fire to the Granado and Gun as before, and had wonderfull great successe and operation in the execution; For this shot struke quite through the Roof of the Church, and fell into a Warehouse under-

underneath the Church, where the Enemy had their Magazine of powder and other things, which by the Granados breaking there, it was all set on fire, their Church thrown down, and many dwelling houses, Warehouses and buildings there, of about 200 foot square were totally ruinated by this blowe; and as I was after informed by many Gent' that came out of the Castle, there was in the said houses and Sellers about 30 Tun of Syder, 12 Tuns of Sack, great store of Corn and Bisket, with a vast number of Fish and other provisions of victuall, and for the War. Also a large Cestern which was made for the receiving of rain-water, very serviceable for the Castle, and joyned to the said buildings, was utterly made unusefull, and sixteen or eighteen men were killed out-right, and six or seven more, so mortally wounded that most of them are since dead; and I my self did see at the same time three men lye dead under the Church wall where no man could come unto them; Likewise Sir *Philip Carteret* did since tell me, that most of his own wearing Apparel, and his other goods of consequence were destroyed by the same blowe.

After this I made a fourth shot by the same degrees of elevation, and with the like proportion of Powder, which fell something short of the other, for the Carriage of my Peece not being able to do more, did break with many of the Irons belonging thereto; So that without Gods infinite goodness and providence in my preservation, I had lost my life by this shot, and I was in much danger both at this time, and every other shot which I made.

On *Thursday* following, which was the eighteenth day of *November*, my Carriage was repaired and amended, and held five or six shoots, and towards the evening my first shot did its execution, the Granado falling into a Reek of Corn, set the same on fire, burnt and destroyed all their Corn and Provisions in the Mowes, that was for Horse and man, my self and others beholding the fire to burn three quarters of an hour, before they could quench it, or throw it into the Sea.

Upon the nineteenth and twentieth of *November*, I made five shot on the farthest part of the Castle, and two about the middle of the Castle, and two shot upon the Out-lynes, every one of them breaking, and doing their execution in one kind or other. At the last of these shot my Carriage brake all her Iron work in peeces about me, and my life was again preserved, with great difficulty.

About eighteen days after my Carriage was mended again, and I made five shot more, three whereof I carryed quite over toward the farthest part of their Castle, which fell amongst their Vessels, and did them some harme, beating them out of the places of security, where they lay; And at that place I shot (neer an English mile) the two other Granadoes; the one whereof fell into the Governours house, and the other not far from the same place, and now my Carriage brake the third time, in a more desperate manner then it did before.

Thus far I have humbly thought good to set down a particular account of the state of my Mortar-peece, the distance of place, the number of Granadoes that were spent, and the execution made thereby; wherein it

appeareth that the whole number of Shels which were ſpent in this ſervice, were but ſixteen, nine whereof fell into the Caſtle, and did their Office, as is before recited, and the other ſeven fell in and neer the Enemies out works, beyond their utmoſt lines, among their ſhipping; and ſome neer their other ſhipping, lying on the hither part of their works, which did all break, and do their Office, though they were very long ſhoots, and my carriage ſo weak and unſerviceable as aforeſaid; for had my carriage been as ſtrong as my Gun, I am able to affirm with much confidence, I could have thrown thoſe Shells and many more, into any part of the Caſtle, and not one have fallen fourty yards in diſtance from the other.

After my carriage was broke the third time, (to the end that no time might be loſt for the effectuall carrying on of the work) whilſt the ſame was mending, I undertook to make able and ſufficient Fireworks, to fire the Enemies ſhipping which lay under their Caſtle Guns, which I brought to maturity and perfection, and my Mate *Rich: Facey* (who approved himſelf a deſerving man) undertook that ſervice, and went down to a ſhip that lay within Piſtoll ſhot of the Caſtles Fort, (taking only one of my men along with him) and notwithſtanding the enemy did play upon them from the Fort very thick, both with great and ſmall ſhot; Mr: *Facey* entered the ſhip and ſet it on fire, by which means both the ſhip and the goods in her were conſumed. In acompliſhment whereof, he underwent very great danger, himſelf and my man that went with him being much burnt, and ſcorched, hardly eſcaping with their lives; and before my carriage was mended this third time, the Caſtle was ſurrendred; Then I made a far-well ſhot with my Gnn upon the Sands (ſhooting neer an Engliſh mile) and ſo left it ſafe and ſound.

Theſe Right Honourable are the Particulars of my ſervice in this Imployment, of which both Col. *Hayne* the Governor, and divers eminent Gentlemen of the Country have alſo given their Certificates of the matter in Generall.

Collonel James Haynes *Certificate of the ſervice performed by* Thoms Wright *Fire maſter, for the reducing of* Elizabeth *Caſtle.*

WHereas *Thomas Wright* one of the Gunners of the Tower of *London* was appointed Firemaſter, and *Richard Facey* another Gunner of the ſame place, his Mate, by order of the Councell of State, to ſerve under my command, in the expedition againſt the *Iſle of Jerſey*. Theſe are to certifie that the ſaid *Thomas Wright*, and *Richard Facey* have faithfully and carefully ſerved the State in that ſervice, I atteſt that they

they have acted with so much Zeal and Judgment, that more could not be expected from any men; And thus much I must moreover inform, that they have not neglected or slighted any duty or Command, but have been very instrumentall under God, to the rendition of *Elizabeth* Castle in this Isle. I could speak more of their deserts, but their services when made known, will speak them large enough, I have only paid them their bare pay, from the time I entertained them, untill the 22 of this instant *Decemb: viz:* for Mr. *Wright* 4 *s. per diem*, and Mr. *Facey* 2 *s.* 6 *d. per diem*, besides their men and assistants with some small incouragements for their eminent service, and 3 *li.* 1 *s.* which I gave them in their purses, besides their pay; I should have been glad if I had been able to have given them a greater gratuity, but I remain their friend and Servant,

Jersey 22. *Decemb:*
1651. *Ja: Heane.*

The Certificate of divers eminent Gentlemen of the Country, in behalf of Tho: Wright *Firemaster for the service of* Jersey.

WE certifie to all whom it may concern, that Mr. *Tho: Wright* (one of the Gunners of the Tower of *London*, was appointed Firemaster, by order of the Councell of State, to serve in the expedition against this Island and the Castle here) hath approved himself a very skilfull and gallant man with the Morter-peice, against Castle *Elizabeth*, by reaching and over-reaching it, beyond the expectation of most men, Ruinating the best Lodgings therein, and firing a Magazen of the Enemy; As also with his other fire-works firing one of their Vessels, by which means they became glad to imbrace a treaty, whereby the said Castle was surrendred to the Common-wealth. Witnesse our hands given hereunto in *Jersey*, this 23. of *Decemb.* 1651.

Lemprie Baily Judge: *John Filkins. Samuel Chase. George Eaton.* Coll: *Stocker:* Lieut: *Grout. Matthew Thoroughgood. Tho: Hooper.* Lieut: *Vyvyan. Will: Willis. John Summerfield.*

I shall in the next place humbly make known unto Your Honors, the certainty of what moneys I have received for pay or otherwise, and what my necessarie charges and disbursements have been during this Imployment, as followeth.

First, it appeareth by Order from Mr. *Roe*, before recited, that I entred upon the service of the State for this Imployment the 15 day of *July*, 1651. and I have continued in the same untill the 28 of this instant *January*.

During which time I have received onely 13 weeks pay at 4 s. *per diem* of Col: *Hayne*, which in all amounts to 18 li. 4 s.

I likewise received 13 weeks pay for my men of Col: *Hayne*, which at 4 s. *per diem* comes to 35 li. 19 s.

Item, allowed unto me by Coll: *Hayne* for my charges to bring me from *Jersey* to *London*, 3 li. 10 s.

Item, given unto me by Collonel *Hayne* the same day the Church was blown up by my Morter peece, 1 li.

Item, Coll: *Hayne* gave to Mr. *Facy*, my Mate, as a gratuity for the service in firing the Ship, 4 li. 10 s.

Item, received of Coll: *Hayne* towards my charges in going to *Jersey*, 2 li. 3 s.

So that we received in all, 64 li. 17 s.

Whereof I received for my own part, but 24 li. 8 s.

Which is all that I have any ways received of Collonel *Hayn*.

In the next place I shall humbly present to your Honors view, what my losses and expences have been, from the time I went out upon this service, until my return again to *London*, and refer the rest to your Honours wisedoms, relating to what Materials were found in the Castle, which in the like cases have been claimed as a right by other men; As also how small my pay was, and what hath been given to other men, though their service hath been nothing at all, or at the best very inconsiderate.

First, I have been constrained to be at the charges in carrying & recarrying my self and my men both by Sea and Land, to and from *Jersey*, (having beforehand ingaged my word to them in that behalf) which hath cost me no lesse then ten pounds *sterling*.

Secondly, By reason of the length of the Journey, and violence

lence of the service, I have worn out and spoyled in Linen, Woollen, and other wearing Apparel, to the value of above 14 *li. sterling.*

From whence it appeareth, that my necessary charges, besides other expences in the Island, doth amount unto four and twenty pounds at the least, and that all the wages or pay that I have received of Col. *Hayne* as Firemaster, amounteth to but 18 *li.* 4 *s.* and I had of the State but ten pounds when I went for *Jersey*, which is all that I have any ways received for the service.

Thirdly, It hath taken up a considerable part of my time, in preparing for the said Journey, before my Commission did begin or Commence, besides the setting on work of severall Artificers, to get in a readiness provisions fit for the expedition, on whom I will averr upon Oath, I expended the whole sum of six pounds.

Fourthly, Whereas there were many Instruments of War and broken store in Castle *Elizabeth*, which by Discipline of War upon the surrender, did appertain unto me, as appears (amongst other Emmunities and Priviledges granted to the Train of Artillery by *Charles* the fifth Emperour, *Article* the 9th. and hath been observed by all Nations) *viz.*

When a City or Fort is taken by Assault, then there belongs to the Master of the Artillery and Gunners the best Peece of Cannon, all Cannon dismounted, or broke by battery, the Charges in all the Cannon, all Powder Barrels that are open, the Ammunition in the Magazine, and the Bels. Also when a Victory or Field is gotten, and the General desires the Magazine, it ought for to be prised, and to give according to equity, that the Master of the Artillery be content therewith.

Nevertheless the Governor Col: *Hayne* conceiving that they were fit to remain in his custody, I had not any part thereof, or penny profit for the same, either directly or indirectly.

Fifthly, Upon occasion of some conference which I had with divers able Gentlemen of the Country (whom I found very Cordiall and reall for the Parliament.) they conceiving that my present allowance was not a sufficient competency, to maintain a man of my imployment, made a proffer (for my better incouragement in the service of the Morter-peece)

to

to make a Collection or gathering throughout the Island, which they would undertake should amount to one hundred pounds to be given unto me, nevertheless although I could not but acknowledg it as a great favour from them, yet for the Honour of those whom I serv'ed, and being unwilling to be a charge to the Country, I refused to accept thereof.

And after the Castle was surrendred, and I was dismissed by Col. *Heyns*, some of the Gentlemen of the Island did declare much Civillity and Curtesie to me, and told me that if I would stay 3. or 6. moneths there, they would provide me a Horse, and I should have Meat, Drink, and Lodging *gratis*, yet being unwilling (as before) to be chargable unto those whom I conceived had been sufferers under Sir *Geo: Carteret*, I rather made choise to expedite my return, (though by reason of the time of the year, it was a time of Danger and Perill) then to protract time in staying there.

This discourse having occasionally led me to make mention of some persons of that Country, me thinks it lyes upon me as a part of my Duty, to give a Glimps of what I observed in that Island in generall.

When we came before *Jersey*, my Mate *Facey* did land with Major *Purling*, and divers others at the first, who affirm unto me, that they discovered not any great considerable party that came down to fight or oppose us in our Landing, and that there was not two hundred Horse and Foot discovered in Arms in a Body; And it is humbly conceived by my self, and others who have Judgment, that if but 1000 of the Islanders had stood to fight in *Caretrets* Cause, we had been so far from gaining the Island, that we had all been destroyed before we had gotten to Land. And notwithstanding, both my self and others heard of great numbers that were in Arms before the Parliaments Forces appeared against the Island, yet is it also affirmed by Persons of good Repute, that when the Parliaments Forces came, many ran to their own homes, and that all the men that were able to bear Arms in one whole Parish (which was Populous) were threatned to be hanged by Sir *George Caretret*, for not appearing at his Summons, some few days before our Landing there, and the generallity of people during my abode there, expressed much love and affection to the Parliament of *England*.

As for the Country it is full of Rich Corn-land, Meadows, and Orchards, and in the Summer (especially) is a place of very sweet and plesant Habitation; The Men and Women are generally courteous, and of a good deportment, the Poorer sort only excepted.

FINIS.